

Activity Guide

Key Locations



KNOW WHERE TO GO

Programs are held throughout the watershed. Make note of where your activity is being held and use the correct entrance. No public roads connect the north and south ends of the reservoir within the watershed. Visitors must exit the watershed and use Vasco Road to travel between the north and south ends of the reservoir by car.



*"The Bay Area's No. 1 fishing lake."
- Tom Stienstra, SF Chronicle*

Fishing & Boating

Experience lake fishing at its finest by casting into Los Vaqueros Reservoir! Rainbow trout, largemouth bass, striped bass, channel catfish, king salmon, sunfish and carp are all available to anglers.

	16-foot Electric Boat	18-foot Pontoon Boat
Hourly Rate	\$25	\$50
Half Day (3-5 hrs)	\$50	\$115
Full Day (5+ hrs)	\$70	\$165
Security Deposit	\$65	\$150

Boat discounts offered Tuesday-Thursday

Daily Fishing Fee \$5 per angler

Fishing fees are used to stock fish at Los Vaqueros.

Bait Marina Complex
Bait, tackle and snacks available during open hours

North Kiosk
Frozen bait available on afternoons and weekends

Whopper Club
Win a glass Whopper Mug when you catch fish of certain weights or larger.

Trout	8 lbs.
Catfish	12 lbs.
Striped Bass	10 lbs.
Largemouth Bass*	5 lbs.

*Fish must be released and photo provided with hand scale or 18" measurement.

Rainbow Trout Limit Club
Earn a pin every time you catch the limit. Five pins earn a hat!

Top 5 Activities

1

FISHING
Cast your line and hook sizeable trout, stripers and catfish.

2

BOATING
Stop by the marina for refreshments before taking the family on a boat ride around the lake.

3

BIRDING
Bring your binoculars to one of the area's premier bird-watching destinations.

4

LEARNING
Visit the Interpretive Center for a fascinating journey through the rich cultural and natural histories of the watershed.

5

HIKING
Pack a lunch and set foot on the West Loop Trail near the Marina.

Contact Information

LOS VAQUEROS WATERSHED & MARINA
Open daily
September 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
October 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
November-February 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
March 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
April-August 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Gates are locked promptly at closing time. Call 925-688-8374 after hours.

9990 Los Vaqueros Road, Byron
925-371-2628
Los Vaqueros Reservoir

JOHN MUIR INTERPRETIVE CENTER
Open Saturdays and Sundays
Year round 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

19 Walnut Boulevard, Brentwood
925-240-2440
Los Vaqueros Interpretive Center

PARKING

\$4 per vehicle
\$6 per vehicle non-ratepayers
\$5 per vehicle non-ratepayer seniors

STAY CONNECTED

Subscribe to the Los Vaqueros Newsletter for the latest information about fishing, boating and recreational activities. To begin receiving the newsletter, sign up at www.ccwater.com/losvaqueros

Photo courtesy of Marc Crumpler



Guided Activities PROGRAMS ARE FREE!

(Unless otherwise stated)

Subject to change

We strive to have the most accurate information at time of publication, yet sometimes things change. Visit www.ccwater.com/activities or call 925-688-8010 for the latest program information.

AUGUST



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, August 5
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.



SEPTEMBER



TARANTULA PRESENTATION

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 2
John Muir Interpretive Center

It's that time of year again. Come and learn about Los Vaqueros Gentle Giants, The California Tarantula. These often maligned and feared

spiders are completely harmless to man. Learn about why we only see them in the fall, where they live, what they eat, how they survive. Get a chance to hold a tarantula. Meet one of our local scorpions. Have your questions about our local arachnids answered.



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, September 2
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.



FISH PRINTING

10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 17
Los Vaqueros Marina

Going fishing today? Stop by the free fish-printing table at the Marina to create fishy works of art on paper! Learn about the fish of Los Vaqueros and of the nearby Delta. If you have a special project in mind, bring fabric materials to print on (T-shirt, pillowcase). There will be a limited number of T-shirts to purchase for \$5. Fishy fun for the whole family!

STARGAZING: AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

8 to 10 p.m. Friday, September 22
Kellogg Creek Picnic Area

The sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. Join a NASA Education Ambassador to identify constellations, planets and other celestial wonders on this first day of fall. Dress warmly. Telescopes available.

OCTOBER



CUB SCOUTS: INTO THE WILD

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, October 1
John Muir Interpretive Center
Limited to 20 participants

Bring your Webelos out for an adventure. Naturalist John Mottashed will lead your scouts on a nature hike to complete six of the nine Into the Wild requirements, including: watch for birds, learn about flyways, watch four wild creatures, identify an insect, learn about aquatic ecosystems, and visit a nature center. Call 925-688-8010 to register your scouts.



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, October 7
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.



GIRL SCOUTS: NATURALIST BADGE

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, October 14
John Muir Interpretive Center

Limited to 20 participants

Take a short hike, get crafty and explore nature! This program with Naturalist John Mottashed is geared toward completing Naturalist requirements for Daisy, Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes, including: Bugs, Trees, Water, Conservation. Call 925-688-8010 to register your scouts.



TARANTULA RUN

8 a.m. Saturday,
October 14
Kellogg Creek Picnic Area
The challenging, yet popular,
Tarantula Run takes runners
and walkers of all ages

and skill levels over the hilly trails of the Los Vaqueros Watershed. There will be 5K, 10K and half-marathon races, as well as a "Spider Scramble" race for kids. Brazen Racing will manage this year's race. To register, visit www.brazenracing.com.



CATCH A SPECIAL THRILL (CAST) DAY

Saturday, October 21

Los Vaqueros Marina

Limited to 40 children with special needs

A one-day fishing and boating day for children with special needs and their families. Participants will fish from shore or by boat and enjoy a barbeque lunch. Every child receives a tackle box full of fishing supplies and a pole to keep. Advance registration is required. Call 925-688-8307 to reserve your spot. Please note that this program is open only to children with special needs and their families.



ARACHNOPHOBIA

10 a.m. to noon Saturday,
October 28

John Muir Interpretive Center
From the size of a pin head
to that of a dinner plate,

approximately 50,000 known species of spiders inhabit Earth. Learn fascinating facts about the eight-legged arthropods that live in Contra Costa County, including the much-maligned "California" tarantula, colorful garden spiders, the notorious black widow and the voracious wolf spider. Bring your curiosity and any questions about these marvelous creatures.



GROSSOLOGY!

10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday,
October 29

John Muir Interpretive Center
Spend the morning diving into the world of yuck as we become nature detectives and investigate poops, pukes and other gross things in nature. We'll dissect pellets and manufacture scats as we strive to answer the age old question of who did that doo-doo! Fun for ages 5+.

NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER NIGHT FISHING

5 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Friday
Los Vaqueros Marina

The south shore will remain open until 8 p.m. every Friday this month for night fishing. Bring a battery-powered lantern or flashlight and your best night lure for this rare after-hours opportunity. Call the Marina for details at 925-371-2628.

BIRDS OF THE FALL

8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, November 4
John Muir Interpretive Center

Join Naturalist John Mottashed on an easy hike down Kellogg Creek to observe birds of the watershed. Species we may encounter include fall migratory birds just stopping by and those that live here year round. Binoculars and bird field guide recommended, but not required. Some guide books and binoculars will be available.



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday,
November 4

Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.



WATER! PONDERING PONDS AND WATERWAYS

9 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, November 12
John Muir Interpretive Center

A morning amble through oak savanna, grasslands, riparian zones and ponds in the Kellogg Creek watershed will explore the relationship of people and wildlife to this precious resource - water! Up to 2.5 miles along a rolling trail.

STARGAZING: LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER

7 to 9 p.m. Friday, November 17
Kellogg Creek Picnic Area

The Leonids shower is capable of producing up to 15 meteors per hour, which should make for a good show in the night sky of Los Vaqueros! This shower is produced by grains of dust left behind by comet Tempel-Tuttle, discovered in 1865. Join a NASA Education Ambassador to observe the meteor shower and other celestial wonders. Dress warmly. Telescopes available.

EARLY WINTER NATURE HIKE

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, November 18
John Muir Interpretive Center

What seasonal changes will we see? Wet or dry, we will take an easy stroll along Kellogg Creek observing the plants and animals that are making those last-minute winter preparations. Dress appropriately. Steady rains will cancel.

DECEMBER



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, December 2
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.



TROUT FISHING FOR BEGINNERS

8 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 9
Los Vaqueros Marina

Limited to 10 participants

Everything you wanted to know about lake fishing, from tying knots to casting. Join Naturalist John Mottashed for a fun and educational hands-on fishing experience at Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Program is intended for boys and girls aged 5 to 10 years. A limited number of loaner rods are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



UPPER WATERSHED HIKE

9 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, December 10
County Line Staging Area

We'll hike into the hills above Los Vaqueros and



explore the natural and cultural world of this watershed and how the reservoir is related to the complexities of the amazing Delta region! Hike is approximately three miles, with moderate hills.